

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOAD BALANCING
IN NETWORK PROCESSING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data rate controller controls a rate that data is transferred over a backplane
10 in a network processing device. A bandwidth allocator allocates bandwidth to an
input port for transmitting data over the backplane to an output port. A bandwidth
limiter identifies a maximum allowable bandwidth the input port is allocated on the
backplane. A bandwidth tracker identifies an amount of bandwidth currently
allocated to the input port for transmitting data over the backplane to the output port.
15 When the current allocated bandwidth is used up, the data rate controller prevents that
input port from connecting to output ports through the backplane until more
bandwidth is allocated.